

1 are gambling, are being taught a message.

2 We need strong leadership in defining
3 where we're heading in our society. Hopefully this
4 Commission will make representations to address these
5 issues.

6 There are no -- I'm sorry. There are no
7 educational criterias (phonetic) in our schools today.
8 There are no criterias in our school today.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Weed.

10 MR. WEED: We need to educate our children
11 regarding this problem with these educators.

12 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. -- Mr. --

13 MR. WEED: Doing nothing is not acceptable
14 here.

15 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much. I'm
16 going to ask you to submit the rest of your comments
17 for the record.

18 MR. WEED: It's already been submitted.

19 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

20 Kathy Terrigino.

21 MS. TERRIGINO: Terrigino, yes, ma'am.

22 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Kathy.

1 MS. TERRIGINO: Madame Chairperson,
2 Commissioners, union brothers and sisters, friends and
3 neighbors, good evening.

4 My name is Kathy Terrigino, and I got my
5 first whiff of the Atlantic Ocean sitting in the back
6 seat of my father's '49 Ford. I've been hooked ever
7 since.

8 Of course in the 1950s, there were only
9 two places on earth: Philadelphia and the Jersey
10 shore. I still want to be on the beach on the 4th of
11 July and Broad Street for the Mummers Day parade on
12 New Year's Day.

13 Our fathers worked hard 50 weeks a year in
14 factories so that we could spend two weeks here in
15 July. We couldn't sleep the night before we left to
16 come here, and we stood on the beach and cried when we
17 had to go home.

18 As we grew up we saw Atlantic City become
19 old and vacant. We mourned its decline. We had such
20 fond memories of better times.

21 Now our city is rising like phoenix from
22 its own ashes, and it is solely because of the gaming

1 industry. It saved Atlantic City from certain death,
2 and it gave my family the chance to live a dream come
3 true.

4 If you'd like a comparison, go look at
5 Asbury Park. With Local 54 representation, we have a
6 contract insuring us fair pay for our hard work and
7 good health benefits for our children. We applaud
8 their hard work on our behalves and pledge our support
9 in the future.

10 We look forward to seeing some members go
11 from the back halls to city hall. My husband coined
12 that phrase.

13 When Mr. Bidwell asked what my affiliation
14 was, I said, "I live here." I am, however, a member
15 of Holy Spirit parish, the PTA of Our Ladies Star of
16 the Seas School, the Parents Advisory Council at the
17 high school, the Political Action Committee of Local
18 54, and the First Ward Advisory Council in the inlet.

19 Yes, we live in the inlet, and it is the
20 best kept secret in the city. We have a great
21 neighborhood that is getting better all the time. We
22 live on the beach block with the ocean and Boardwalk

1 only steps away.

2 I wish that you would come in the summer
3 so that you could experience the real magic here. Our
4 children love it, and we love it.

5 Anyway, do we have some problems?

6 Absolutely. Can we solve them? Positively.

7 So while we appreciate your interest in
8 our progress, we really don't need any federal
9 intervention, and we certainly don't need any new
10 taxes.

11 In closing, if you feel you must do
12 something for us, just say a little prayer remembering
13 that prayer doesn't change things, but it changes
14 people, and people change things.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIRMAN JAMES: We have lots of people
18 who want to speak tonight, and I really ask your
19 indulgence because think about that. She got applause
20 and somebody else didn't, and they're all excellent,
21 and we want to hear from everybody, and that really
22 eats into our time. So I'm going to please ask you